

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image forming apparatus includes a latent image bearing member and a developing device for performing a two-level developing operation according to a threshold value of a potential on the latent image bearing member using a one-component developer including toner particles. The developing device has a conveyor to convey the developer to a developing area where the conveyor is spaced from the opposing latent image bearing member by a developing gap. The developing device also has a thin layer forming device to form the developer on the conveyor into a uniform thin layer. A developing bias voltage is applied to the conveyor when the two-level developing operation is performed and developing conditions are established such that an amount of the developer that is moved to and adheres to the latent image bearing member image area is saturated.